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quick facts on...

## Tamiami Canal (C-4) Flood Protection Project

JULY 2008

**The South Florida Water Management District** is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

The South Florida Water Management District will begin construction of flood protection walls located in sections of unincorporated Miami-Dade County and the City of Sweetwater. This effort is part of the Tamiami Canal Flood Protection Project. The District will construct one wall on the north bank of the Tamiami Canal between Palmetto Expressway and 107th Avenue and the other on the north bank between Florida's Turnpike and 132nd Avenue. The flood protection walls will contain canal waters at a uniform elevation of 8 feet above mean sea level along the Tamiami Canal, providing residents of the canal basin with improved flood protection.

### Background

The Tamiami Canal conveys stormwater by gravity from west to east along its entire length and discharges to the Miami River, which flows into Biscayne Bay and then out to sea.

The original drainage system within the Tamiami Canal Basin was not designed to accommodate the population that currently resides in this low-lying area. Water managers recognized a need for major system improvements.

The Tamiami Canal Flood Protection Project was launched in response to local flooding from Hurricane Irene in 1999 and the "No Name Storm" in 2000. It is a \$42 million, multi-phase project and includes the completed \$27 million 900-acre Emergency Detention Basin in West Miami Dade, the Sweetwater Linear Park Flood Protection Improvements, the S-25B Forward Pump Station, the S-26 Pump Station and a \$4 million dredging project. The overall project is providing improved flood protection to 500,000 residents and to 5,000 homes and businesses.



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## Implementation and Maintenance

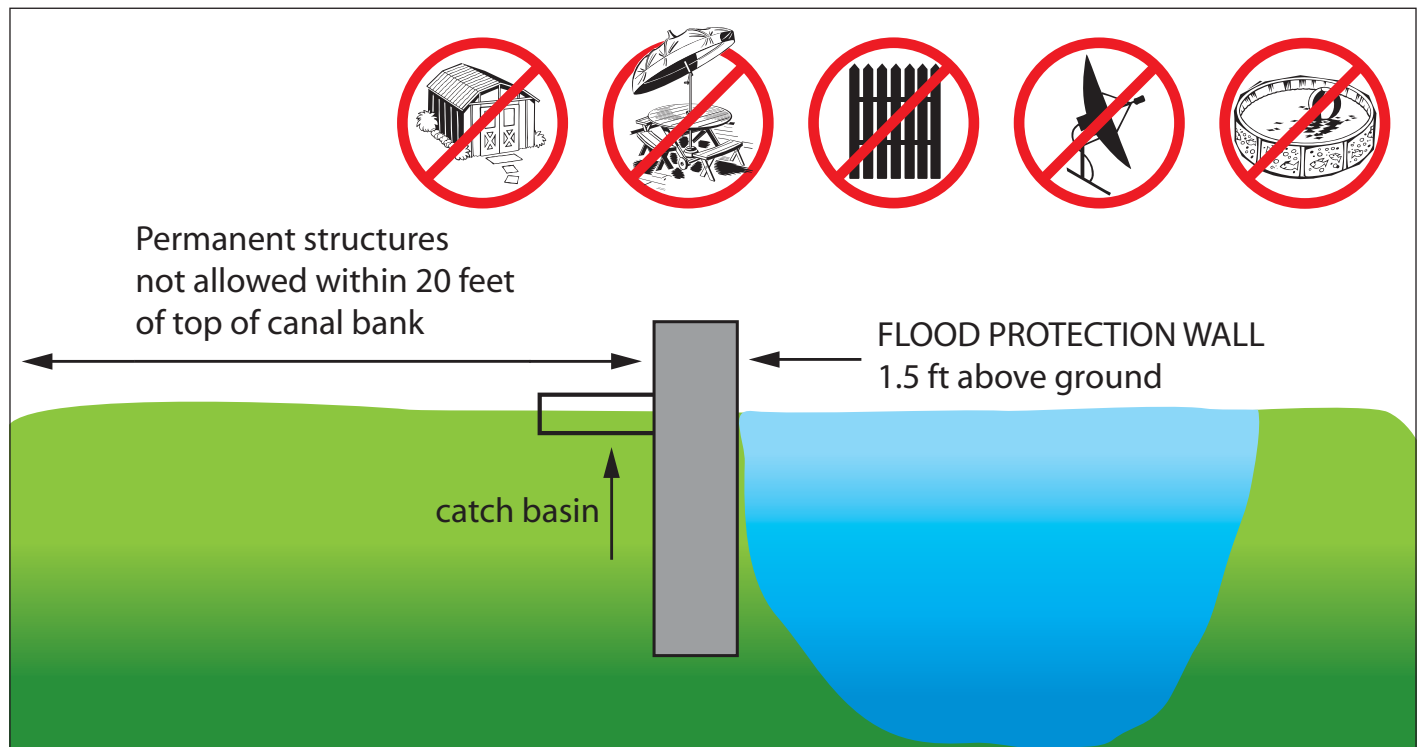
Construction of the flood protection walls will consist of site preparation, construction and ongoing maintenance. The District will use a portion of its right of way for this work, which will require clearing of all unauthorized encroachments. These include permanent structures, trees and fences within 20 feet of the top of the canal bank needed to ensure adequate space to construct and maintain the wall. A permanent structure means any structure that is affixed to a slab or foundation in the ground. Examples include, but are not limited to, fences, buildings, sheds on concrete pads, patios, pools, screen enclosures, barns, satellite dishes, antennas, towers and stand-alone garages. When the flood protection walls are completed, no new permanent structures will be allowed within 20 feet of the top of the canal bank.

Once constructed, the walls will be fairly unobtrusive, rising to a height of no more than two feet above ground level on properties within the project area. To accommodate existing and future irrigation lines, each property will be provided with an irrigation sleeve through which pipes can be run to the canal.

The District will maintain the flood protection walls in unincorporated Miami-Dade County. Subject to an agreement with the District, the City of Sweetwater will maintain the portion of the wall that runs through the City. Maintenance will require periodic visual inspections of the walls' drainage systems and occasional land- and water-based cleanings.

## Partners in Progress, Keeping the Promise

Completion of this component of a major flood protection project marks continued commitment of local, state and federal agencies to provide major drainage improvements to some of the most impacted areas within Miami-Dade County.



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